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1) Training section

The training section, divided again into sub-sections for planning, reports, procedure and statistics, is responsible for organizing the various programs of instruction in line with basic Soviet directives. This section prepares the daily programs of instruction, including short topic outlines, and discussion material and leaflets for all of the Bereitschaften and schools. The monthly and quarterly reports on classes, attendance and student grades are assembled here and collated. The coordinated statistical reports, with annotations, are then forwarded to the Soviet Control Commission.

2) Information section

The information section appraises the Eastern and Western press, with particular emphasis on items concerning the Bereitschaften.

3) Communications section

The communications section supervises the various telephone and teletype communications systems presently used by the HVA and is responsible for signal corps training. The personnel is drawn from former German army signal corps men and civilian postal-telegraph technicians.

4) Operations sub-section and map center

The operations sub-section investigates all "special incidents", from suicide to theft. It is also responsible for the actual issuing of orders and instructions from this and other departments and sections. The operations sub-section is in effect the pivotal section of the whole headquarters. The map center is administratively under the operations sub-section. Here maps of Eastern Germany are assembled and distributed for training purposes. The actual printing of the maps has been done by commercial firms, though there is a small press in the map center.

5) Organization sub-section

The organization sub-section is responsible for all recruiting, enlisting, transferring of personnel, morning reports, and associated activities.

6) Secret sub-section

The secret sub-section registers and controls the circulation of all secret and top secret documents.

7) Staff secretariat

The staff secretariat arranges meetings and general assemblies and handles all requests for leave.

8) Mail, vehicle dispatch, guard platoon and custodial sub-section.

The last sub-section is a general administrative one, handling the distribution of internal mail, the dispatching of unassigned vehicles, the supervision of cleaning women and kitchen help, etc. The permanent guard platoon consists of fifty men.

b. Political-Cultural Department

The political-cultural department is headed by Chefinspekteur Doelling, who is simultaneously General Inspekteur Heinz Hoffmann's chief deputy. This department is responsible for the organization and the direction of the entire political-cultural program in the schools and Bereitschaften. The political indoctrination is coordinated with the current SED political line, as regards the National Front, recognition of the Oder-Neisse line, etc. The political-cultural department maintains permanent teaching staffs in the schools and Bereitschaften which are responsible for the general training programs as well as the individual political reliability of each of the students. The officers of the political-cultural department make periodic tours of inspection to the various schools and Bereitschaften.

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to supervise the programs and inspect such physical installations as clubrooms, sport equipment, poster displays, etc. They also try to win the confidence of the individual recruits, so that they can personally investigate the political reliability of various students and test the effectiveness of the general political culture program. The department is divided into various sections: organization, training, youth, sport, literature and culture. The youth section headed by Kommandeur Karl Morgenstern is of special significance. This section was responsible for the organization of youth groups of the FDJ within the HVA. The youth groups have been an incentive in the general military and political training and have provided a suitable extra-curricular outlet.

The political-cultural officials are hoping to organize another section, accredited to the staff department, in order to have an even greater hand in the present training system.

c. Personnel Department

The personnel department, headed by Chefinspekteur Karl Koehn, is divided into sections for officer and enlisted personnel and is responsible for maintaining service records.

d. Quartermaster Department (Intendantur)

The quartermaster department, headed by Chefinspekteur Hans von Kech, is divided into the following sections: 1) Organization and Planning, 2) Supply, 3) Transportation, 4) Health, 5) Clothing and Arms, and 6) Finance.

e. Inspection Department

The inspection department, headed by Chefinspekteur Heinz Zorn, is composed primarily of former German army officers who tour the schools and Bereitschaften, giving specialized tactical instruction and supervising the general training program.

f. Special Liaison Department*

The special liaison department is primarily concerned with the political reliability of the individual members of the HVA. It is a separate department, functioning as a counter-espionage unit. The special liaison officers within the schools and Bereitschaften work in close cooperation with the Sovietniks' assistants.

2. Personalities

- a. General Inspekteur Heinz Hoffmann, the head of the HVA, came up through the ranks of the Communist Party hierarchy. During the Spanish Civil War he was attached to a battalion as a political commissar. He is the ranking SED functionary within the HVA and was, prior to his present appointment, the head of the political-cultural department. His political reliability is beyond question; he is a highly trained and fanatic Communist. In his personal relations with colleagues and subordinates he displays a calm, unruffled and matter-of-fact demeanor. In his political addresses he arouses the interest and fervor of his audience by a plain and simple form of delivery inspired by glowing fanaticism. In disposing of internal and external difficulties and opposition he is averse to compromise and consistent in his demands. His directives are always an outgrowth of political discernment and necessity. His plain talk and open ways make him generally liked. He is still not too sure of himself in his present job and, therefore, to increase his knowledge, personally sees all papers passing over his desk. So long as he heads the organization the Soviets can be assured of the Communist direction of the HVA.

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- b. Chefinspekteur Doelling is the first deputy and head of the political-cultural department. He was a refugee in the U.S.S.R. during the war and is a fully indoctrinated and fanatical Communist. He is devoid of military experience. In his personal relations with others he is friendly, modest, calm and matter-of-fact. His political addresses are logically constructed and delivered ex tempore in an effective and convincing manner. In personal matters he displays an unusual degree of moderation. He considers the contribution of former German officers to the speedy and secure development of the NVA an indispensable prerequisite. He does not expect those officers to be fully indoctrinated and is satisfied if they cooperate in the right direction.
- c. Chefinspekteur Wulz occupies the position of "Allgemeiner Stellvertreter" (deputy general.) This notwithstanding, he does not appear to be next in line of succession if Hoffmann should fall out. During a temporary absence of Hoffmann's predecessor, Generalinspekteur Wilhelm Zeisser, his place was taken not by Wulz, but by Chefinspekteur Zorn, the head of the inspection department. Wulz displays no particular qualities of military proficiency or leadership. He endeavors to surround himself with the nimbus of the fatherly superior, using the device of pronounced benevolence. Among the enlisted men he enjoys more popularity than among his officer colleagues. Into all conversations he endeavors to inject a political note. It is difficult to gauge the extent of his conversion to the Communist faith. In a strictly professional sense his abilities are limited. He is dependent on the judgment of others. He completely lacks the self-assertion so characteristic of German generals. As far as his position is concerned he probably realizes that there is no possibility of retreat.
- d. Chefinspekteur Heinrich Heitsch is the prototype of a German General Staff officer. As Chief of Staff of the NVA, he discharges his manifold responsibilities with complete expertness. He is pedantic in his work and highly ambitious. In his dealings with subordinates he is aloof and haughty, a trait which has accorded him the active dislike of quite a few among them. The Soviets are keenly aware of the fact that he occupies a key position and for that reason keep him under closest surveillance.
- e. Chefinspekteur Helmut Borufka is in charge of the training section within the staff department. Both professionally and politically he is highly qualified. He is a Sudeten German who, prior to 1938, served in the Czech Army. In the German Army he advanced to first lieutenant in the infantry. He is very assertive, conscientious and ambitious. As a convinced and fanatic Communist, he enjoys the esteem of the Russians.
- f. Chefinspekteur Karl Kochn heads the personnel department. He is an old Communist and Spanish Civil War veteran. He is not particularly versed in things military. His Communist convictions guarantee that the NVA in its personnel policy adheres to the Party line. Personally he is very sociable and friendly. He is generally liked.
- g. Chefinspekteur von Weech, in charge of the quartermaster department, is a capable man in his field, as shown by his receiving two premiums and decorations with the NVA medal. He has not as yet joined the SED and for that reason has been subjected to criticism in Party gatherings. He is stubborn, unimaginative and impervious to outside influences. In his personal dealings he is unfriendly and curt, representing the duty-bound official discharging his responsibilities, irrespective of their nature.
- h. Chefinspekteur Zorn, who heads the inspection department, is a former German Air Force and General Staff officer. During his imprisonment in the U.S.S.R. he was very active politically. In the NVA he enjoys a reputation for being settled in his political views. He enjoys the confidence of the Russians. In professional matters he is not always too sure of himself and likes to ask for advice. He is arrogant and for that reason not easy to deal with. His loyalty to the Communist side, based on genuine political convictions and on professional ambition, cannot be questioned.

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- i. Inspektour Wels, head of the HVA school at Pirna, studied chemistry and worked in an industrial position before entering the German army. He served as a major in the Engineers. He was politically active while a prisoner in the U.S.S.R. and became mayor of Dresden in 1945. He headed the Electric Power Society in Dresden for a while and then entered the HVA. He is particularly gifted and is one of the best school directors. Despite his political record he is mistrusted by the Soviets.
- j. Inspektour Balthasar, head of the HVA school at Zittau, is a former artillery colonel and a typical older active officer. His outspoken criticism of the unwieldiness of the HVA has brought him disfavor. His technical knowledge and the skill with which he runs his school have kept him in his position, although he is not a convinced Communist.

All of the other heads of schools and Bereitschaften can be classified as either convinced Communists or former German army officers who have accepted Communism as a necessary adjunct to their present jobs. Except for the two Inspektours listed above, all of the leading personalities of the HVA can be considered politically reliable for all practical purposes.

Comment: There exists the possibility that the Special Liaison Department may be either a branch of the Ministry for State Security within the HVA or a representative of State Security employing HVA members.

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